

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 15-21 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21 being independent.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 15-21 have been allowed by the Examiner over the cited art. For the reasons presented below, Applicants submit that Claims 1-3 and 5-8 should also be allowed.

Applicants further note that the Office Action does not specifically discuss or reject Claim 8. Clarification of the status of Claim 8 is requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35.U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have amended Claim 1 in view of the Examiner's comments and believe that these amendments overcome the Examiner's objections. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,054,991 (Crane, et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

As recited in Claim 1, the present invention relates to a marker layout method that includes, *inter alia*, the features of laying out markers in a real space (which in some cases are laid out at positions hidden by real objects), where the markers are used as position indices by players in a mixed reality space. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features recited in Claim 1.

Crane et al. discloses a virtual reality system 20 in which an operator perceives being in a virtual reality world 74 via a video display 60 in helmet 26. However, that patent discloses a virtual reality space and does not disclose or suggest a mixed reality space (i.e., a space that combines or synthesizes a real space with a virtual reality space). Unlike a mixed reality space, as recited in Claim 1, a virtual reality space as disclosed in Crane et al. does not require any position indices and therefore that patent does not disclose or suggest laying out markers to be used as position indices.

Further, Crane et al. does not disclose or suggest laying out markers in a real space, as recited in Claim 1. As mentioned above, that patent discloses a virtual reality system and does not disclose or suggest laying out markers in a real space. The Examiner suggests that the objects in Crane et al. correspond to the claimed markers. However, the objects disclosed in that patent are not used as position indices and are not laid out in a real space. Therefore, those objects cannot correspond to the claimed markers.


In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is also patentable over the cited art. Claims 2, 3, and 5-8 are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth

in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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